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Diverse Power Foundation awards first 10 scholarships to high school seniors

LaGrange, Ga. – Diverse Power Foundation Inc. announces today recipients of the first 10 scholarships awarded through the foundation’s educational initiative.

Formed by Diverse Power in June 2002, the Foundation oversees utilization of funds raised through the electric cooperative’s Operation RoundUp Program, distributing funds in the form of educational scholarships and grants for students and schools within the Diverse Power service area.

Ten \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded this spring to area high school seniors, according to Diverse Power President and CEO Wayne Livingston who said 40 students applied for the first round of scholarships. The awards are based on students’ exceptional scholastic skills, exemplary personal character and civic responsibility.

The first 10 students to receive scholarships from Diverse Power Foundation include Karen Leanne Bailey of Heard County Comprehensive High School, daughter of Sammy and Dianne Bailey; Susan Braik of Troup County Comprehensive High School, daughter of Mary Ann Braik and Ed Braik; Mistie Conner of Troup High, daughter of Kenneth and Caroleanne Connor; Christopher L. Horton-Cook of LaGrange High School, son of John Cook and Barbara Horton; Steven James Landry of LaGrange Academy, son of Steven and Kathleen Landry; Jessi Lucas of Flint River Academy, daughter of Susan Allen and Barry Lucas; Dustin Moore of Callaway High School, son of Teresa Moore; Anna Marie North of West Georgia Christian Academy, daughter of Don and Alice North; Keunho Kim Park of Brookstone High School, son of Sungman Park and Ock Hee Park; and Sara Beth Rutherford of Harris County High School, daughter of Scott and Tina Rutherford.

Diverse Power Foundation is managed by a nine-member board of directors made up of community leaders throughout the Diverse Power service area, which consists of Troup, Heard, Harris, Meriwether, Coweta and Muscogee counties in Georgia and Chambers County in Alabama. Board members include Chairman Jim Kelly, Vice-chairman Joel Keith, Secretary/Treasurer Anne Cook, Morris Tatum, Lewis Sturdivant, Darryl Landreth, N.R. Crowder, Orval Curry and Troy Roberts.

With education their primary focus, the board is responsible for disbursement of funds raised through Diverse Power’s Operation RoundUp Program, implemented June 2002 as a way to gather voluntary contributions from participating co-op consumers by rounding up their monthly power bill to the next dollar. The average donation is \$6 per year.

“The small donation can really add up,” says Livingston. “Used by many electric membership corporations across the country, this is one of the best community involvement programs we’ve observed.”

Diverse Power Foundation also awards grants to schools in the service area for projects that significantly enhance the educational experience with emphasis on innovation in education, creative application of teaching skills, providing students with

key life skills, and purchase of specialized equipment or supplies to support classroom learning activities. Grant recipients for 2003 will be announced later this summer.